

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. (Currently amended) A method for relieving joint pain or other discomforts associated with joint disorders in a warm-blooded vertebrate ~~comprising~~ consisting of the step of delivering to said vertebrate by oral ingestion a nutritional supplement consisting essentially of an effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, and a food acceptable carrier, wherein the effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, is from about 0.1 μg to about 400 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ of body weight.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the nutritional supplement is provided in capsule form.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the warm-blooded vertebrate is a human, or an equine, canine, or feline species.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the joint pain is the result of an arthritic condition.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the arthritic condition is selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the joint pain is the result of an inflammatory condition involving skeletal or musculoskeletal structures.

8. (Original) A nutritional supplement consisting essentially of an effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, and a food acceptable carrier, the nutritional supplement provided in an orally ingestible dosage form.

9. (Original) The nutritional supplement of claim 8, wherein the effective amount of hyaluronic acid is 1 to 6 mg.

10. (Original) The nutritional supplement of claim 8 wherein the orally ingestible dosage form is a capsule or gel seal.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[12]] 1 wherein the effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, is provided in liquid form.